

2005 he led New York City's first transit strike in 25 years in order to safeguard the pensions and healthcare for transit workers and future retirees. When all of the negotiations had been completed, the Governor of New York attempted to set a precedent by placing a cut in future pension benefits for new hires. It was the opening salvo for a campaign to cut pension benefits for all state and city employees. In an act of monumental significance for future workers Roger Toussaint rejected this deal with the words: "I will not sell out the unborn."

TWU Local 100 President Roger Toussaint was born in Trinidad in 1956. As a youth in Trinidad, he took part in the 1970 rebellion that targeted the vestiges of British colonial rule and challenged the oppressive conditions of workers, soldiers and small farmers. At the age of 17, Toussaint was arrested and expelled from school for writing slogans on school walls, including "Free Education Means Free Books." In 1974 he came to New York. After a brief enrollment at Brooklyn College, during which he took part in the anticutbacks movement, he worked for several years as a welder prior to the closing of the Brooklyn Naval Yard. Toussaint was hired by the Transit Authority as a cleaner in 1984 and became a track worker in 1985.

Toussaint became active on the job, joining with other track workers to publish "On Track" and to pursue a series of struggles against managerial arrogance and safety hazards. He did not seek a formal union position until 1994, when he was elected Chair of the 1,800-member Track Division. Already a thorn in the side of management and the incumbent union administration, Toussaint used the newly gained position to step up the struggle. In July of 1998, he was fired on the pretext of having been in an unauthorized vehicle during working hours, when the car in which he was a passenger was hit in an intersection and he suffered neck and back injuries. In fact, Toussaint was on official union business at the time, riding in a union car operated by a union official. A routine appeal of the firing was dismissed as untimely—the first such ruling in 60 years of Transit Authority (TA) discipline.

The TA had Toussaint shadowed by private investigators who followed him to union meetings, to his son's nursery school, and even to disciplinary hearings where he defended fellow union members. Toussaint's firing became a rallying cry for union members who demanded his reinstatement. In the union election of 2000, Toussaint became the presidential candidate of New Directions, an umbrella group embracing the opposition to the incumbent regime.

On taking office, Toussaint immediately took measures to reform the finances of the nearly bankrupt Local, including cutting his own salary by 25 percent. In March 2001 he led a successful strike at a Westchester bus company, obtaining landmark increases in wages and benefits for 700 union members. In 2002 he led the union through a difficult strike at three bus companies in Queens operating under city franchise, securing the failing health benefits for 1,500 members. At the end of that year, he led the union in winning a contract settlement that guaranteed threatened health benefits for 34,000 transit workers and their families and opened an array of new initiatives on such fronts as discipline, safety, training and childcare.

In December 2003 he was reelected to a second term as President of TWU Local 100.

As well as his duties at Local 100, Roger Toussaint is President of the Coalition of Metropolitan Transit Authority Unions and a New York City Employees' Retirement System Board Member. He has served on the NYC Central Labor Council and the Municipal Labor Committee. The father of five, Roger Toussaint lives in Crown Heights with his wife, Donna.

For his exceptional vision and leadership courage we salute Roger Toussaint as a Great Point-of-Light for all Americans.

RESOLUTION HONORING CON- GRESSMAN ELIGIO "KIKI" DE LA GARZA

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, Whereas, Eligio "Kika" de la Garza was born in Mercedes, a small town in Hidalgo County, Texas, on September 22nd, 1927, beginning what would be the start of a long, and illustrious life in representing the Rio Grande Valley.

Whereas, at 17 years of age, he enlisted in the United States Army and served until 1946, continuing his education at Edinburg Junior College and the United States Army Artillery School in Oklahoma. Soon thereafter, he earned a law degree from St. Mary's University in San Antonio.

Whereas, in 1952, Eligio "Kika" de la Garza was elected to the Texas House of Representatives in 1952, serving the Rio Grande Valley. He accomplished many goals such as the creation of the Texas Water Commission and sponsoring a bill that allowed the border cities and counties along the Rio Grande river to build their own international bridges, helping to foster the spirit of trade and cooperation that still exists to this day.

Whereas, after serving honorably in the Texas House of Representatives, Congressman de la Garza was elected in 1964 to the United States House of Representatives to represent the 15th Congressional District of Texas. In his 32 years of congressional service, he was Chairman of the Committee on Agriculture, the first Hispanic to serve in the seat since 1917.

Whereas, during his leadership as Chairman of the Agriculture Committee for the next 13 years, he oversaw major agricultural legislation such as the Agriculture and Food Act of 1981, the Temporary Emergency Food Assistance Act, the Food Security Act, the Agricultural Credit Act of 1987, and the Disaster Assistance Acts of 1988 and 1989.

Whereas, in 1976, Congressman de la Garza became one of the founding members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, which he chaired from 1989 to 1991 as a strong supporter of civil rights for minorities and free trade along the border. He was highly involved in the passage of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) which has greatly benefited the Texas-Mexico border region in South Texas: be it hereby

Resolved, That Congressman Henry Cuellar commends Congressman "Kika" de la Garza for having served the Rio Grande Valley with the utmost distinction and courage.

RECOGNIZES

ANTHONY
MUSSELMAN OF SUFFOLK, VIR-
GINIA

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Anthony Musselman of Suffolk, Virginia, a Quartermaster 1st class sailor currently serving in Iraq in the Global War on Terror.

Originally joining the Navy for an opportunity to see the world and learn some new skills, Quartermaster Musselman has accomplished his dream and has literally traveled the world over. A dedicated student of the naval profession, he was always looking at the stars. Quartermaster Musselman was happy to strike for quartermaster, learning to "shoot" the stars with a sextant rather than use GPS satellites.

One of his favorite memories during his 9 years of service was following September 11th when a German destroyer asked permission to pass by his amphibious assault ship. As they passed, the whole German crew was standing at attention with large sheets hung from all parts of the ship saying "We Stand With You".

Quartermaster Musselman is married to Misti Musselman from Chino, California. The couple currently lives in Suffolk, Virginia and is expecting their first child while he is deployed in Iraq. He is currently deployed with the Iraqi coastal patrol squadron guarding coastal oil fields. Quartermaster Musselman's parents currently reside in Citrus Hills, Florida.

Mr. Speaker, it is soldiers like Anthony Musselman who volunteered to protect the freedoms that all Americans hold dear to their hearts. While brave men and women like Anthony serve in the name of freedom and liberty, his family, friends and loved ones should know that this Congress will never forget his sacrifice and commitment.

JIM SANTANGELO—LABOR LEADER OF THE YEAR

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Jim Santangelo who is being honored as San Diego's Labor Leader of the Year. Jim is a New Jersey native who began his career as a truck driver in his home state following an honorable discharge from the Navy in 1959. This was also the time when Jim joined his first Teamsters Union Local. Shortly thereafter, he moved to Southern California and began his rapid rise in Teamsters Local 848.

Widely known throughout Southern California by thousands of rank- and-file Teamsters over the decades because of his communication skills, he served the Western Conference of Teamsters in 13 states as food and warehouse division director. In that post, he expanded working strategies for industry Union members to prosper under new collective bargaining agreements.

For years he served as the Union's political affairs chairman. His long tenure as the director of Joint Council 42's political screening